

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Notice of Allowance mailed June 16, 2005 was vacated and prosecution of the application was reopened.

Claims 1 to 2, 4 to 5, 7 to 9, and 12 to 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Behnke et al. (US 5,863,367). Claims 10 to 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Behnke et al. in view of Fromson et al. (US 6,062,138). Claim 21 was allowed. Claims 6 and 24 were objected to but indicated as allowable. Claim 3 was indicated as withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 6. Claim 24 has been placed in independent form. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 3

The Office Action assertion that previous claim 1 was limited solely to the Figs. 2A to 2G specifically contradicts the present specification. [0025] and [0026] for example specifically state that Fig. 1A, which shows a uniform thickness carrier sleeve layer 22, describes layer 22 as both rigid and convex.

Although claim 3 was withdrawn without traverse, it was specifically on the basis that if a generic claim was indicated as allowable, claim 3 could be reinstated. Claim 1 as amended is generic, and reinstatement of claim 3 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1 to 2, 4 to 5, 7 to 9, and 12 to 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Behnke et al. (US 5,863,367).

Claims 1 and 12 now include the limitation of allowable claim 6 and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 10 to 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Behnke et al. in view of Fromson et al. (US 6,062,138).

In view of the amendments and comments with respect to claims 1 and 12 and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claims have been added to depend from claim 21, which was indicated as allowable.
These claims mimic dependent claims off claim 1.

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,
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